(vi) To develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures.

(vii) To undertake Surveillance of suspected dealers.

(viii) To engage experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.

(ix) To obtain Cooperation of Pharmaceutical Industry by regular interaction with them.

(x) To collect survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQED) Programme.

In addition the following steps have been taken:

1. Association of Pharmaceutical Industry and All India Organisation of Chemists and Druggists have been asked to take necessary intiative to collectively combat the menace of spurious drugs.
2. The problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs and the need to ensure its checking has been specifically explained to State Health Ministers during the meeting of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare held on 12th and 13th July, 2001 in New Delhi.
3. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of DGHS on July 18, 2001 associating members from industry, trade, drug regulatory officials and public representative to go into all aspects of the menace of spurious drugs and suggest remedial measures. Meetings of the Committee were held on Oct. 25, 2001 and March 14, 2002 and various underlying issues concerning manufacture and sale of spurious drugs in the country were examined.

Survey on health

3507. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any survey through National Health Organisations about the health of the people;

(b) whether International Institute of Population Science has published that many of the developed States including Maharashtra have not cared for the health of the people even though there is scope to improve; and

(c) Government's reaction to the above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In 1998-99 the National Family Health Survey was conducted at all India level by reputed institutions in the country covering 25 States and NCT of Delhi with International Institute

for Population Sciences, Mumbai as the nodal agency. Reports for all India and most of the States have been brought out, which provide demographic and health information. The results reveal that for many of the indicators, there have been improvements as compared to a similar survey in 1992-93. There is still scope for improvement even in the developed States, including Maharashtra.

(c) Results of the National Family Health Survey have been disseminated to States to take necessary measures, in required areas. Government of India has taken a number of major steps for improvement of Family Welfare Programme which include:

(i) An integrated and holistic programme for Reproductive and Child Health that includes Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception. Some of the Important interventions are Essential Obstetric Care. Emergency Obstetric Care, 24 hours Delivery Services at Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres, Dai Training, RCH Camps and New born care, etc.

(ii) Government has adopted a National Population Policy (NPP) in February 2000, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilization. Community involvement in administering family planning services is undertaken.

Effect of BT cultivation on public health

†3508. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public health is likely to be affected by the cultivation of BT cotton in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any assessment of the health hazards likely to take place as a result of the production of the said product;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is no evidence to date to indicate that public health will be affected by the cultivation of approved variety of BT Cotton.

(b) to (d) For evaluating the food safety considerations—the Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company conducted allergenicity and toxicological studies on

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.